Discrepancies in Education Credentials — Request for Verification Before Confirmation R2025-202

Appointment to Clerk's Office – September 2, 2025

Confirmation Vote Scheduled Appointment to Clerk's Office – September 23, 2025

Summary

The Clerk of the Superior Court position requires either a bachelor's degree *or* a combination of education and experience clearly indicating ability to perform the duties (Pierce County Code 2.07.010 G). RCW 36.16.030 further requires the Clerk be a qualified elector of Pierce County at the time of appointment.

The question here is not whether the candidate has sufficient experience — he does. The concern is that *he has presented conflicting accounts of his educational background,* ***raising an ethics and credibility issue that Council must resolve before confirmation.***

Conflicting Education Records

Sources	Education Listed
Résumé submitted to Pierce County	Gonzaga University – Master's in Communication & Leadership (2021). No bachelor's degree listed.
LinkedIn profile (accessed Sept. 7, 2025)	University of Utah – Bachelor's in Communication Studies (2017); Gonzaga University – Master's in Communication & Leadership (2021).

Why It Matters

- A constitutional officer entrusted with safeguarding court records must be held to the highest standard of honesty and transparency.
- Pierce County Code 3.12 (Ethics) requires integrity in representations made to the County.
- The omission of a claimed bachelor's degree on an official application, while advertising it publicly, creates doubt that must be addressed.

Request

- Council should verify the candidate's educational record with the University of Utah and Gonzaga University and require clarification of this discrepancy before proceeding with confirmation.
- This is not about whether he technically qualifies by experience — it is about whether the Council can place full confidence in his candor.

APPENDIX

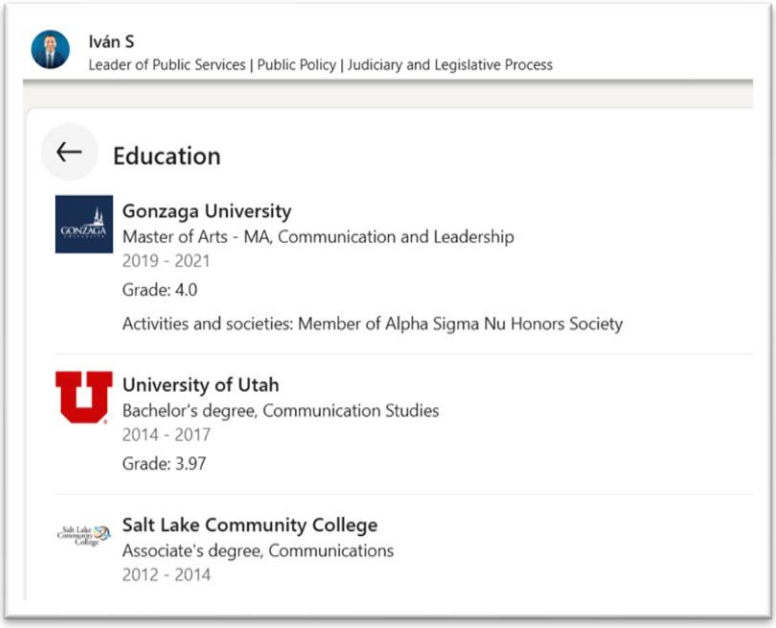
Screenshots for Reference

1. **Source:** PCC Requirements Clerk of SC_SANDOVAL.pdf August 25, 2025, Page 5:

IVAN SANDOVAL
Clerk of the Superior Court

Pierce County Code 2.07.010 G. – Clerk of the Superior Court Education & Experience	Statement of Experience
Education. Bachelor's degree in human resource management, public administration or a related field; or any combination of experience/education which would clearly indicate the ability to perform the duties of the position.	I have a Master of Arts in Communication and Leadership from Gonzaga University. I also have an HR management certificate from the University of Utah and a National Center of State Court Operations Management Certificate.

2. **Source:** LinkedIn profile ivanhehimhis/ Accessed September 7, 2025


Iván S
Leader of Public Services | Public Policy | Judiciary and Legislative Process
Education
Gonzaga University
Master of Arts - MA, Communication and Leadership
2019 - 2021
Grade: 4.0
Activities and societies: Member of Alpha Sigma Nu Honors Society
University of Utah
Bachelor's degree, Communication Studies
2014 - 2017
Grade: 3.97
Salt Lake Community College
Associate's degree, Communications
2012 - 2014

Experience

Clerk to the Pierce County Superior Court
Pierce County
Sep 2025 - Present · 1 mo

Manage and lead the Pierce County Superior Court Clerk's Office. Safeguard the integrity and accuracy of Superior Court case records while delivering exceptional service with fairness, accuracy, and respect. Responsible for all Superior Court filings and legal financial transactions. Perform quasi-judicial duties, including issuing writs, subpoenas, and warrants. Oversee Pretrial Services, which provides custody screenings and monitors individuals awaiting trial. Support the courts, justice partners, and public with reliable, and accessible court services.

3. **Source:** **Resume_SANDOVAL.pdf**

EDUCATION

Master's in communication and leadership, 2021. Gonzaga University
Human Resource Management Certification, 2016. University of Utah
Operations Management Certificate, 2023. National Center of State Courts
Emergency System Certification, 2024. FEMA
Professional Development Municipal Clerk Phase I, 2025. Northwest Institute

4. **Source**: **Questionnaire Executive Chief Officer Appointments_SANDOVAL.pdf** Page 2

Appendix A to Chapter 1.28 Pierce County Code QUESTIONNAIRE FOR EXECUTIVE'S CHIEF OFFICER APPOINTMENTS

EDUCATION – SECTION 2		
High School Kearns High School	Graduated/GED conferred. ☑ Yes ☐ No	
List all post secondary educational institutions attended.		
Name/Location	Years/Semesters Attended	Certificates, Degrees conferred, etc.
Gonzaga University	2 years	Masters in Communication and Leadership